

### **REMARKS**

The Official Action dated August 26, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. By the above actions, claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 14-17 and 21-25 are pending in the application. In order to better define that which Applicants regard as the invention, claims 1, 12, 14-15, and 17 have been amended, and claims 21-25 have been added. No new matter has been added. Support for the Amendments are provided in the original claims, Figures 1-3, 7, 8, and 11 and related text of the specification.

In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

#### **Drawings**

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show the main handle having the spring-loaded contacts recited in claim 12. To the extent that the Examiner interprets FIG. 7 to show the two spring-loaded contacts 36 on the handle portion 14 rather than the main handle 16, claim 12 has been amended according to this interpretation. Amended claim 12 now recites that "the handle portion further comprises a first set of spring-loaded contacts positioned to mate with a second set of contacts on the main handle." This amendment is further supported by the present specification which states, "The handle portion 14 has two spring-loaded contacts 36 positioned to mate with the leads 34 when the main handle 16 tactilely receives the handle portion 14." (See page 17, lines 13-15).

Applicants note that FIG. 7 is within the scope of the elected species. FIG. 7 shows "a cross-sectional view of an electrical connection between the main handle 16 and the handle portion 14." (See page 17, lines 11-12). Main handle 16 and handle portion 14 are a part of the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1-3, which are the subject of the elected species. Therefore, in light of FIG. 7 and the amendment to claim 12, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is in order and is respectfully requested.

#### **Claim Objections**

Claim 15 is objected to because there is lack of antecedent basis for "the dishwasher." Claim 15 has been amended to recite "a dishwasher" in place of "the dishwasher" so that

antecedent basis is no longer required. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to claim 15 is in order and is respectfully requested.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,412,398 to Norcross et al. In response to the Examiner's rejections of claim 1 and 14, claims 1 and 14 have been amended to recite "the main handle forming one end of the apparatus." In the illustrated embodiment shown in FIGS. 1-3 of the present application, the main handle 16 extends from the piercing element 18 to form the other end of the apparatus opposite the piercing element. In contrast, referring to FIG. 1 of Norcross et al., the Examiner interpreted the receiving region 106 to be a main handle and handle 22 to be a handle portion removably connected to the main handle. Assuming that the receiving region 106 in the cited reference is a main handle, the handle portion 22 forms one end of the apparatus, with head 24 forming the other end. Hence, the main handle 106 in Norcross et al. does not form one end of the apparatus. Thus, even according to the Examiner's interpretation, Norcross et al. fails to disclose a main handle forming one end of the apparatus as now specifically recited. Correspondingly, because amended claims 1 and 14 now recite the main handle forming an end of the apparatus, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 14 is in order and is respectfully requested.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claim 17, claim 17 has been amended to recite "the means for displaying being positioned between two ends of the means for holding" where there is a means for "temporarily separating the means for displaying from the means for holding." In the illustrated embodiment shown in FIGS. 1-2 of the present application, display 22 is positioned between two ends of the main handle 16. In contrast, according to the Examiner's interpretation in which the receiving region 106 in Norcross et al. corresponds to the main handle, the display of Norcross et al. is not positioned between two ends of the main handle as now specifically recited. Thus, since amended claim 17 now recites a display between the two ends of the main handle and the cited reference fails to disclose such a limitation, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 is in order and is respectfully requested.

Applicants also respectfully submit that dependent claims 2 and 15 are likewise allowable since they depend on what is now believed to be allowable base claims 1 and 14, respectively.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norcross in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0097759 to Bond et al. In view of the amendment to base claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot and that dependent claim 7 is allowable at least for the reason of its dependency on allowable base claim 1.

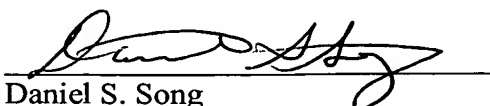
Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norcross in view of U.S. Patent 3,742,602 to Brumwell. In view of the amendment to base claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot and that dependent claim 8 is allowable at least for the reason of its dependency on allowable base claim 1.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norcross in view of U.S. Patent 5,066,242 to Martucci. In view of the amendment to base claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot and that dependent claim 12 is allowable at least for the reason of its dependency on allowable base claim 1.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norcross. In view of the amendment to base claim 14, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot and that dependent claim 16 is allowable at least for the reason of its dependency on allowable base claim 14.

Therefore, the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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